

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/973,253	MAHONEY ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven S. Paik	Art Unit 2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the After Final Amendment filed April 12, 2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9 and 11-19.
3.  The drawings filed on 09 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.



Steven S. Paik  
Examiner  
Art Unit: 2876

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the After Final Amendment filed April 12, 2004. The applicant has canceled claims 2, 10, and 20 and has amended claims 1, 9, and 17.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior arts of the record, Sher (USPN 6,085,976) and Colgate, Jr. (USPN 5,786,587), taken alone or in combination of other references do not teach, disclose, or fairly suggest the claimed information processing method and system comprising, *inter alia*, the steps of collecting statistical data of the location of a printer of a plurality of printers in a printing system used for printing data. Sher reference is directed to a passenger card that includes smart cards that have a shape similar to plastic cards with at least one silicon chip or an IC embedded into the card package. The data stored in the smart card functions as an electronic ticket for a particular itinerary, a proof of rights for a specific transportation carrier, electronic money for a transaction, or a security document for protecting the contents of the card and identifying its rightful holder. However, the reference taken singly, or in combination, does not fairly suggest the further claimed steps of receiving the data card by a user by the printing of the data at a first location using a first printer of the plurality of printers in a business system for facilitating the billing for printer consumables for use of the printer by the user of the printer. The present invention provides a user with a low cost and reliable device providing secure access to print data.

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify teachings of prior art to meet the claimed limitations as set forth in the present claimed invention.

Claims 3-5, 11 and 12 directly depend on the allowable independent claims 1 or 9 and thus allowed for the foregoing reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

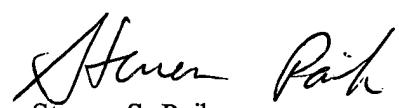
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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